

Alternative Projects for Comprehensive Refugee Resettlement Services

Initiated in FY 98, Alternative Projects are designed to provide interim financial assistance, support services, and case management to newly arriving refugees in a manner that encourages refugee self-sufficiency and that fosters coordination among resettlement agencies and other service providers. Current alternative statewide projects are Colorado, Idaho, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Vermont. The projects in San Diego, CA; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and Baltimore, Maryland serve specific localities.

Community and Family Strengthening and Integration

The Community and Family Strengthening and Integration program provides grants to public and private non-profit organizations to support projects designed to strengthen refugee families in the areas of health, youth, employment, English language training, parent-school relationships, crime, spouse and child abuse, citizenship and community activities. These grantees commit to cost-sharing up to 40% of the costs of their projects.

Community Orientation

The Community Orientation program provides support to newly arriving refugees with information on local resources, community services and institutions, American mores, customs, laws, and responsibilities associated with being new residents of their communities.

Community Service Employment Program

The Community Service Employment (CSE) is an employment program designed for refugees who have experienced long-term difficulties in assimilation into American communities. The grants provide support to communities with large concentrations of refugees whose cultural differences make assimilation especially difficult.

Discretionary Funds for Assistance for Treatment of Torture Survivors

This new program provides treatment services for all victims of torture without regard to immigration status. Services may include mental health and psychological services; legal and social services; and research and training for health care providers outside of treatment centers or programs.

Elderly Refugees

ORR offers its support of older refugees by providing funds to States with high concentrations of elderly refugees. This program is intended to increase refugee access to aging services. In addition, ORR has an interagency agreement with the Administration on Aging to identify ways in which

both the Aging and ORR networks can work together more effectively at the State and local community levels to improve elderly refugees' access to services.

Ethnic Community Organizations

The purpose of this program is to provide new ethnic communities with funds for organizational development and to provide resources for developing networks, newsletters, leadership training and needs assessment.

Individual Development Accounts

The Individual Development Accounts (IDA) for Refugees provides funds to public and private, non-profit agencies to establish and manage IDAs for low-income refugee participants. Grantees may use ORR funds to provide matches for the savings in the IDAs up to \$2,000 per individual refugee and \$4,000 per household.

Mental Health

ORR provides grants for four types of activities under the mental health program: 1) training and ongoing consultation for direct service workers to increase their knowledge and skills in working with refugees experiencing distress; 2) orienting refugees to U.S. mental health services; 3) orienting mainstream mental health professionals to refugees and refugee programs; and 4) clinical services to refugees of populations new to U.S. communities.

Microenterprise Program

Microenterprise projects are intended to assist refugees in starting or expanding very small businesses. These entrepreneurs typically possess few personal assets and lack a credit history that meets commercial lending standards. Microenterprise projects may include components of training and technical assistance in business skills, credit, revolving loan funds, and business management seminars.

Preferred Communities

With these grants, ORR seeks to promote opportunities for refugee self-sufficiency and effective resettlement. Funds are made available for grants to voluntary agencies to increase placements of newly arriving refugees in preferred communities where there is a history of low welfare utilization and favorable earned income potential relative to the cost of living.

Refugee Preventive Health

The Refugee Preventive Health program provides support to States to coordinate health screening services for newly arriving refugees. State grantees are responsible for ensuring that refugees receive follow-up treatment, referrals, and orientation to the U.S. health care system. Approximately 38 States participate in this program.

Refugee School Children Impact Grant

The purpose of these grants is to provide for some of the costs of educating refugee children incurred by local school districts in which significant numbers of refugee children reside. Thirty-two States participate in this program which provides for a wide range of services for refugee children and their parents.

Service Programs for Cuban-Haitian Refugees and Entrants

This program provides assistance to communities affected by Cuban and Haitian entrants and refugees. Services may be provided in four program categories: (1) employment; (2) hospital and other health and mental health care; (3) adult and vocational education; and (4) refugee crime and victimization.

Targeted Assistance Discretionary Grants

The Targeted Assistance Discretion program provides grants to States to implement special employment services which cannot be funded with formula social services or with Targeted Assistance formula grants.

Technical Assistance grants

ORR currently has technical assistance grants/interagency agreements in the following areas: Aging, Preventive Health, Mental Health, Microenterprise, English Language Training, Employment, and Welfare and Immigration Reform.

Unanticipated Arrivals

The unanticipated arrivals program is intended to provide resources that bridge the gap between the arrival of refugees and the following budget cycle when their numbers are included in the population-based formula social services funds. Situations that unanticipated arrivals funding is intended to mediate include those where bilingual staff are needed for new arrivals, where refugee services do not exist or are not sufficient to meet the needs of the new arrivals.

VOLAGS Planning and Training Grants

This project supports national voluntary agencies' planning, training, and technical assistance activities for public/private partnerships. Public/private partnerships are intended to provide integrated services and cash assistance to refugees to increase their prospects for early employment and self-sufficiency.

(3/21/00)

ORR DATA SYSTEM

The ORR Information System (ORRIS) houses a variety of data that are used to support the mission of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). Specifically, the ORRIS maintains refugee arrival data, I-643 data (adjustment of status data), and GPRA data. The ORRIS is used to generate much of the statistical information contained in the ORR ARC under Population Profile and associated tables, as well as the yearly samples that form the basis for the Annual Survey of Refugees (which is also reported in the ORR ARC under Economic Adjustment). In addition, the ORRIS is used to allocate funds for Social Services and Targeted Assistance grants and other grants specific to age, the concentration of certain ethnic groups in certain communities, etc. Finally, the ORRIS is used to answer ad hoc questions from Congress and ORR clients.

REPATRIATION PROGRAM

The U.S. Repatriation Program provides temporary assistance to U.S. citizens and their dependents who have been returned to the U.S. from a foreign country because of destitution, illness, war, threat of war or similar crisis and are without available resources. The program provides similar assistance during a national emergency evacuation.